

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY M/MS:RGMAYS, JR.

APPROVED BY M/MS:RGMAYS, JR.

M:MR. BOUCHARD

EUR/EX - MISS CLARK

S/S-O: PJOHNSON

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, AFSP, EGEN

SUBJ: OPRED - TREASURY REQUEST TO ADD A SECRETARIAL
POSITION

REF: STATE 284023, USOECD 982

1. AS POST KNOWS FROM ITS INFORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH
TREASURY DEPARTMENT, SECRETARY MARY GRACE JOHNSON DE-
PARTED FOR PARIS IN JANUARY WITHOUT CLEARANCE OR AUTHOR-
IZATION BY DEPARTMENT AND UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE
(USC). THIS IRREGULARITY OCCURRED DESPITE OUR EXPRESS
REQUEST TO TREASURY THAT MISS JOHNSON REFRAIN FROM
TRAVEL PRIOR TO USC DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ADDITIONAL POSITION.

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2. DECISION HERE ON REQUEST TO INCREASE TREASURY OVER-

SEAS POSITION CEILING FOR AMERICANS WAS AND IS NEGATIVE, THE JUSTIFICATION BEING ASSESSED AS INADEQUATE IN THE FACE OF P.L. 93-475 PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN STATE 284023. FURTHERMORE, DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH TREASURY OFFICERS RAISE OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPRIETY OF PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS TO PERSUADE TREASURY TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAL SUPPORT. MANNER OF PURSUING THIS TRANSACTION

UNNECESSARILY EXACERBATED ALREADY SENSITIVE STATE-TREASURY RELATIONSHIP.

3. BY ANY REASONABLE STANDARD, MISSION'S RATIO OF AMERICAN SECRETARIES TO SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS IS UNUSUALLY HIGH (FS INSPECTORS LAST SEPTEMBER REPORTED ONE SECRETARY SERIOUSLY UNDEREMPLOYED). THEREFORE, ANY PROBLEM THAT MAY EXIST WITH REGARD TO SECRETARIAL SUPPORT SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF FOLLOWING FACTORS: (A) AN FSS SECRETARY FORMERLY SUPPORTED MR. TANNER; (B) ANY SECRETARIAL HELP NEEDED FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS IN ECON/FINANCE SECTION IS INITIALLY A POST AND STATE (RATHER THAN A TREASURY) RESPONSIBILITY, (C) RECENT PAID OVERTIME RECORD FOR USOECD SECRETARIES DOES NOT SUPPORT REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL POSITION; (D) DEPARTMENT CANNOT TAKE LIGHTLY CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN TO RESTRICT USG OVERSEAS PROFILE PER PL 93-475, NOR PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE CONTROLLING USG PRESENCE UNDER AMBASSADORS.

4. SINCE MISS JOHNSON IS ALREADY AT POST, DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO FOLLOWING DISPOSITION OF THE IMMEDIATE CEILING INCREASE ISSUE, A FORMULA SUGGESTED BY AND ACCEPTABLE TO TREASURY REPRESENTATIVES: (A) TREASURY REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL POSITION IS DENIED AND MISSION CEILING FOR AMERICANS REMAINS UNCHANGED; (B) MISS JOHNSON MAY REMAIN AT POST ABOVE CEILING, DUAL-ENCUMBERING THE POSITION NOW HELD BY MISS GERTRUDE NEHER; (C) ON LATTER'S DEPARTURE NEXT SUMMER, MISS JOHNSON WILL ASSUME THOSE DUTIES.

5. DEPARTMENT FULLY APPRECIATES IMPORTANCE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENTLY INCREASED VOLUME OF WORK WITHIN MISSION'S RESPONSIBILITY. AT SAME TIME USG RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR EVEN MOST CRITICAL TASKS ARE NOT UNLIMITED. THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO RESOLVE ANY LONG-TERM PROBLEMS OF SECRETARIAL SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE POST EXAMINING VERY SERIOUSLY ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR MORE EQUITABLE SHARING AND CAREFUL USE OF PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED AMERICAN SECRETARIES BEFORE SEEKING INCREASES

IN ESTABLISHED AMERICAN COMPLEMENT. INGERSOLL

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